

Susan Kistenmacher  
Farmingdale  
LD 2086

This testimony is in support of LD 2086.

Current Maine law generally prohibits machine guns. However, it does not cover conversion devices that convert semi-automatic weapons into fully automatic machine guns.

Innovations by the gun industry have resulted in a flood of easy to install conversion devices that turn semi-automatic weapons into fully-automatic machine guns. These devices are a threat to public safety.

The amendment to LD.2086 would update Maine law to include conversion devices (Bump stocks, Glock switches, and Auto sears) in the definition of "machine gun" and bring state law in line with federal law, under which conversion devices are considered machine guns.

The availability of extremely dangerous weaponry that can result from conversion devices and other assault weapons and large-capacity magazines has fueled an alarming increase in high casualty mass shootings across the nation, including in last October's mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine that killed 18 Mainers and injured 13 more.

These weapons were created for deadly battlefield purposes. They are designed and equipped with features that enable mass killing, including sustained, high-volume rapid fire shooting at large numbers of people in a short period of time. They are most often used in mass shootings and can morally wound a lot people quickly. By this description they have no place in society.

This legislation on conversion devices is just a start. It is not enough to deal with the threat posed by the easy access to weapons of war in our communities. We can start here but leaders must then go on to ban the sale and transfer of all assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Maine.

I urge you to support LD 2086.